

B¹ the benefit of the filing date of the following identified U.S. patent applications, which are incorporated herein by reference to the extent allowable by law:

IN THE CLAIMS

Please cancel claim 3, without prejudice, disclaimer, and without admitting to anticipation or obviousness.

Please substitute claims 1, 12-15, 17 and 20 with the following:

B² 1. (Twice Amended) A system, comprising:
an appliance operably connected to a power line;
means for monitoring the performance of said appliance, the appliance monitoring means including a power line modem operably connected to the power line; and
means for transmitting data indicative of a status of said appliance from said monitoring means to a facility physically remote from the appliance and the appliance monitoring means.

B³ 12. (Twice Amended) A system, comprising:
an appliance; and
an integrated unit for monitoring said appliance, said integrated unit comprising a screen and an appliance control and feedback interface operably connected to the appliance;
said integrated unit having an operating system operably configured to power up said integrated unit to display a message on said screen when a fault that arises in said appliance is received by the appliance control and feedback interface.

13. (Amended) A system which comprises:

means for monitoring the performance of an appliance connected to a power line, said appliance monitoring means including a power line modem operably connected to the power line; and

means operable if a fault in the operation of said system occurs for communicating the existence and nature of said fault to a service or repair facility remote from said appliance.

14. (Twice Amended) A system, comprising
an appliance connected to a power line; and
an integrated unit for monitoring said appliance, said integrated unit having a power line modem operably connected to the power line ;

3
said integrated unit having a screen and an operating system capable of causing a display message indicative of a fault in said appliance being displayed on said screen when said integrated unit is powered up.

15. (Twice Amended) A system, comprising:
an appliance connected to a power line; and
a monitoring unit operably connected to said appliance via the power line, said appliance comprising a sensor for monitoring a parameter indicative of the performance of said appliance;

said monitoring unit comprising:

means for sampling the parameter available from said sensor at periodic intervals;

means for storing said parameter in said monitoring unit; and

means for comparing the stored parameter with reference data such that a problem

associated with the appliance is identified if said appliance fails.

17. (Twice Amended) A system comprises: